

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 183853

22

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 183853

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, CA

SUBJECT: ASSISTANT SECRETARY LEWIS MEETS CANADIAN IO
DIRECTOR

1. GEFF PEARSON, NEWLY APPOINTED HEAD OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS SECTION OF THE CANADIAN DEPT EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, MET AT HIS REQUEST ON JULY 20 WITH IO ASSISTANT SECRETARY LEWIS. LEWIS AND PEARSON DISCUSSED CANADA'S UPCOMING ROLE AS A SECURITY COUNCIL MEMBER BEGINNING JANUARY 1977 AND REVIEWED THE ISSUES WHICH MIGHT ARISE DURING THE 31ST UNGA.

2. HIGHLIGHTS OF DISCUSSION FOLLOW: A) PRE-UNGA BILATERALS: BOTH AGREED ON THE NEED TO CONTINUE US-CANADIAN PRE-UNGA BILATERALS. LEWIS SUGGESTED THAT THE MEETINGS MIGHT TAKE PLACE IN NEW YORK EITHER WEEK OF
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 183853

SEPTEMBER 13 OR WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 20. PEARSON AGREED,

AND PROMISED TO SUGGEST SPECIFIC DATE. B) NAC CONSULTATIONS: REFERRING TO GOVERNOR SCRANTON'S EUROPEAN TRIP, PEARSON STRESSED THAT THE CANADIANS FEEL STRONGLY ABOUT CONSULTATIONS BEING HELD WITHOUT THE "VETO" OF ANY ONE MEMBER. LEWIS AGREED AND STATED THE US WOULD NOT ACCEPT ANY ATTEMPT TO BLOCK NAC DISCUSSION OF UN

ACTIVITIES, DESPITE UNFORTUNATE CONTRETEMPS OVER ABORTED SCRANTON VISIT TO BRUSSELS. C) POLITICIZATION OF UN SPECIALIZED AGENCIES: DISCUSSION REVIEWED RECENT EVENTS AND FOCUSED PARTICULARLY ON RECENT ILO MEETINGS AND PROSPECTS FOR UNESCO CONFERENCE IN OCTOBER. LEWIS SUGGESTED CANADA COULD BE EXTREMELY HELPFUL IN OPPOSING GROWING POLITICIZATION OF INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES. PEARSON VOLUNTEERED THAT CANADA MIGHT BE OF SOME HELP THROUGH ITS COMMONWEALTH CONTACTS. D) ZIONISM/RACISM: PEARSON SAID HE FEARED THE STRONG POSSIBILITY THAT ZIONISM/RACISM MIGHT BE A MAJOR ISSUE AT THE 31ST UNGA. HE SAID THAT ADVERSE PUBLIC REACTION IN CANADA TOWARD THE UN STIMULATED BY THIS ISSUE WAS SIMILAR TO THAT IN THE U.S. A REPETITION OF THE FORMULA BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY COULD HAVE AN IMPORTANT EFFECT ON CANADIAN POLICY AND ATTITUDE TOWARD PARTICIPATION. BOTH PEARSON AND LEWIS AGREED THAT WE SHOULD CONSULT FURTHER ON TACTICS TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM, PERHAPS BY "FENCING IT OFF" FROM OTHER ISSUES TO WHICH WE AND OTHERS ATTACH IMPORTANCE, SUCH AS THE DECADE TO COMBATE RACISM. E) AFRICA: RHODESIA, NAMIBIA AND SOUTH AFRICA WERE DISCUSSED IN GENERAL TERMS, WITH LEWIS NOTING OUR EFFORTS TO ENCOURAGE PEACEFUL POLITICAL CHANGE. IN RESPONSE TO PEARSON'S QUERY, LEWIS SAID THAT WE COULD NOT SUPPORT ANGOLAN UN MEMBERSHIP UNTIL THERE WAS A VERIFIED SUBSTANTIAL WITHDRAWAL OF CUBAN TROOPS FROM THE COUNTRY. PEARSON STATED HE COULD NOT PROMISE CANADIAN SUPPORT FOR OUR POSITION. (TO ANOTHER QUESTION, LEWIS RESPONDED THAT WE HAD NOT YET DECIDED ON HOW WE WOULD REACT TO A VIETNAMESE BID FOR MEMBERSHIP THIS YEAR.) F) PUERTO RICO: LEWIS STRESSED THAT WE WOULD REGARD INTRODUCTION OF THE PUERTO RICAN ISSUE AT THE UN AS BEING A "HIGHLY UNFRIENDLY ACT." PEARSON NOTED THAT CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 183853

THE CANADIAN-CUBAN RELATIONSHIP WAS "NOT BAD" AND THAT CANADA COULD PERHAPS APPROACH THE CUBANS ON THIS MATTER IF WE WISHED. LEWIS DID NOT RPT NOT ENCOURAGE HIM IN THIS REGARD; G) PEACEKEEPING: PEARSON COMMENTED THAT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR CANADA TO COMMIT ADDITIONAL TROOPS TO FUTURE PEACEKEEPING EFFORTS, SHOULD ANY BE MOUNTED BY THE UN. ROBINSON

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